

University Farm News
University of Minnesota
University Farm
St. Paul 1 Minnesota



Prepared and distributed
by the Minnesota Agricultural
Extension Service.

For use during week of
February 9, 1953

January 29, 1953

Mulching Machine -- Kenneth Hoppe, Wilkin Soil Conservation District, has an unusual piece of equipment. It is a mulching machine which attaches behind the plow and picks up straw from unplowed land and places it over on the fresh plowing, thus protecting the loose soil from wind erosion. "Of all the machinery I have, that is one piece I would never dispose of," he said. Kenneth has his farm laid out in strips and two 4-row shelterbelts run east and west across the 160 acres. Last spring he set aside a 3-acre plot and planted it to trees and shrubs to furnish food and cover for upland game and birds. Usually this is done with wasteland, but Kenneth's plot is the same soil as most of his farm, and in fact was part of one of his strips.

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More Alfalfa Seed Available -- There will be more certified Ranger alfalfa seed available in 1953 than ever before, according to L.J. Elling, research associate in agronomy at the University of Minnesota. And the price will be lower than at any time in the past. Production of certified Ranger is estimated at about 27,000,000 pounds for 1952 as compared with 16,000,000 pounds in 1951 and 4,700,000 pounds in 1950. Approximately 83 per cent of the certified Ranger was produced in Arizona, California, and southern Utah in 1952. This is outside the region of adaptation for this variety. However, if you buy certified Ranger you are buying seed that will give satisfactory performance. Don't buy Ranger from the Southwest that's not certified.

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Hegseth Elected -- Theodore Hegseth of Fergus Falls was elected president of the Minnesota Association of Soil Conservation Districts at the association's annual meeting at St. Cloud, January 8. Mrs. Burton Chambers of Owatonna was reelected president of the women's auxiliary, Daughters of the Soil.

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Wins Camp Story Prize -- Earl Madison, St. Paul, has been named winner of first place in the newspaper reporting contest for 4-H club members who attended the 4-H Conservation Camp at Itasca State Park last September. He won \$5 for the best published newspaper account of the camp activities. Winners of \$3 and \$2 second and third prizes were Margaret Boggs, Aitkin, and Lorna Underthun, Danvers.

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